



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 19, 2002

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COMMISSION REQUIRES RADAR DETECTORS TO COMPLY WITH EMISSION LIMITS TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE TO SATELLITE SERVICES

Washington, DC – The FCC has taken new steps to protect satellite operations from interference caused by radar detectors by imposing new emission limit and certification requirements for radar detectors.

The FCC's actions taken will prevent interference to very small aperture satellite terminals (VSATs), which operate with downlink frequencies in the 11.7-12.2 GHz band. Specifically, the Commission has modified Part 15 of its rules to require radar detectors to meet emission limits in the 11.7-12.2 GHz band and to require that radar detectors obtain certification under the Commission's equipment authorization procedures. All radar detectors marketed within the U.S. must comply with the new rules within 60 days after the rules are published in the Federal Register. All radar detectors imported into and manufactured for sale within the U.S. must comply with the new rules within 30 days of Federal Register publication.

Under Part 15 of the FCC rules most devices that unintentionally radiate radio frequency energy, such as computers and receivers, are required to comply with radiated emission limits before they may be marketed. Receivers that tune only above 960 MHz have been exempt from complying with the limits because they have generally not been a source of interference to authorized radio services. Recently, however, there have been a number of cases of harmful interference to VSATs which have been attributed to radar detectors. Tests at the Commission's Laboratory have shown that some radar detectors emit radio signals in the VSAT downlink band far in excess of the limits that apply to other unintentional radiators.

The rules require operators of an unintentional radiator to cease operations in the event it causes harmful interference. However, because radar detectors are mobile, it is impractical to resolve interference problems on a case-by-case basis. Thus, the Commission concluded that it is necessary to require all radar detectors to comply with general emission limits to prevent interference to VSATs. Radar detectors will be required to comply with the same limit in the 11.7-12.2 GHz band that applies to other unintentional radiators under Part 15 of the rules (*i.e.*, a field strength of 500 μ V/m measured at 3 meters). In addition, radar detectors must be certified by the Commission or a designated Telecommunications Certification Body (TCB) to demonstrate that they comply with these requirements.

Action by the Commission July 12, 2002, by *First Report and Order* (FCC 02-211). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin.

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ET Docket 01-278